

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action dated February 21, 2008 which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-13 are pending in the Application. By means of the present amendment, claims 1-13 are amended including for better conformance to U.S. practice, such as amending dependent claims to begin with "The". By these amendments, the claims are not amended to address issues of patentability and Applicant respectfully reserves all rights under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

In the Office Action, the drawings are objected to because of lack of the label "Prior Art" in FIG. 1. In response, "Prior Art" has been added to FIG. 1. A replacement sheet including FIG. 1 is enclosed. It is respectfully submitted that the drawings are now in proper form and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the abstract is objected to for certain informalities. In response, the current Abstract has been deleted and substituted with a New Abstract which better conforms to U.S. practice. It is respectfully submitted that the New Abstract is now in proper U.S. form and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-3 and 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,960,081 (Vynne) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,356,363 (Cooper). Claims 4-6 and 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Vynne in view of Cooper and further in view of "Secure Spread Spectrum Watermarking for Multimedia" (Cox). Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Vynne in view of Cooper, Cox, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,628,325 (Steinberg). It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-13 are patentable over Vynne in view of Cooper alone and in view of Cox and Steinberg for at least the following reasons.

It is undisputed that Vynne "doesn't teach that said portion being larger than said first region." (See Office Action,

page 3, 2nd paragraph.) Cooper is cited to cure this deficiency in Vynne however, it is respectfully submitted that reliance on Cooper is misplaced. As a first point, Col. 10, lines 61-64 does not discuss an embedding of a watermark, but merely describes a method of printing the image so that a watermark that is embedded in the dithered image is visually discerning. During printing, the image is printed twice such that two regions of an image that each contains a portion of the watermark overlap so that "the watermark will become visible." (See, Col. 10, lines 59-64.) In Cooper, a single threshold array is split into two regions (see, Col. 10, lines 56-57) and the watermark is split into two shares, such that a first share of the watermark is embedded into one region and a second share of the watermark is embedded into the other region (see, Col. 10, lines 61-64). Cooper does not embed the signature by spreading bits of said signature across a physical portion of the audio-visual signal that is larger than the physical region from which the watermark is derived from without subdividing the signature.

It is respectfully submitted that the method of claim 1 is not anticipated or made obvious by the teachings of Vynne in view of

Cooper. For example, Vynne in view of Cooper does not disclose or suggest, a method that amongst other patentable elements, comprises (illustrative emphasis added) "generating a signature from a first physical region of a plurality of physical regions of the audio-visual signal; embedding of said signature by spreading bits of said signature across a physical portion of said audio-visual signal without first subdividing the signature, said physical portion being larger than said first physical region" as recited in claim 1, and as similarly recited in claims 11 and 12. Cox and Steinberg are introduced for allegedly showing elements of the dependent claims and as such, do nothing to cure the deficiencies in Vynne in view of Cooper.

Based on the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 is patentable over Vynne in view of Cooper alone and in view of any combination of Cox and Steinberg and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. Claims 2-10 and 11 respectively depend from one of claims 1 and 11 and accordingly are allowable for at least this reason as well as for the separately patentable elements contained in each of the claims. Accordingly, separate consideration of each of the dependent claims is

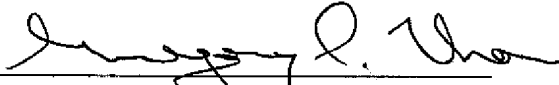
respectfully requested.

In addition, Applicant denies any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, Applicant reserves the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded. And in particular, no Official Notices are conceded.

Applicant has made a diligent and sincere effort to place this application in condition for immediate allowance and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: Replacement drawing sheet (1 sheet including FIG. 1)

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